CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for substituting an anonymous Universal Unique
Identifier (UUID) for a computer system's real UUID in order
to disguise an identity of said computer system to an
application requesting a UUID for said client computer
system, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a storage device in said computer system
including a primary location, wherein a UUID stored in said
primary location is used as a UUID for said computer system;

generating said anonymous UUID, wherein said anonymous
UUID does not identify any particular computer system;

storing said anonymous UUID in said primary location
within said storage device; and

providing said anonymous UUID in response to a request
for said computer system's UUID.

2.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the
steps of:

said storage device including a secondary location for
saving said real UUID while said anonymous UUID is being
utilized as said computer system's UUID; and

6   in response to said storage of said anonymous UUID in
7   said primary location, moving said real UUID from said
8   primary location to said secondary location, wherein said
9   real UUID is not located in said primary location after said
10 move.

1   3.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the
2   steps of:

establishing a cloak bit for specifying whether to
disguise said computer system's identity;

said computer system starting execution of said boot
process;

determining whether said cloak bit is set during said
execution of said boot process; and

in response to a determination that said cloak bit is
set, moving said real UUID stored in said primary location
to a secondary location in said storage device and storing
said anonymous UUID in said primary location, wherein said
identity of said computer system is disguised by utilizing
14 said anonymous UUID as said client computer system's UUID.

1   4.   The method according to claim 3, further comprising the
2   step of in response to a determination that said cloak bit
3   is cleared, moving said real UUID from said storage location
4   to said primary location, wherein a true identity of said

computer system is represented by utilizing said real UUID
as said computer system's UUID.

5.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the
steps of:

    an application program requesting said computer
system's UUID; and

    said computer system providing a UUID stored in said
primary location to said application program in response to
said request.

6.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising the
steps of:

    establishing a cloak bit for specifying whether to
disguise said computer system's identity;

    said computer system providing said real UUID which is
stored in said primary location to said application program
in response to said request when said cloak bit is cleared;
and

    said computer system providing said anonymous UUID
which is stored in said primary location to said application
program in response to said request when said cloak bit is
set.

7.   The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether said cloak bit is set or cleared;

in response to a determination that said cloak bit is set, moving said real UUID from said primary location to a secondary location and moving said anonymous UUID from said secondary location to said primary location, wherein a true identity of said computer system is disguised by utilizing said anonymous UUID as said computer system's UUID; and

in response to a determination that said cloak bit is cleared, moving said real UUID from said secondary location to said primary location and moving said anonymous UUID from said primary location to said secondary location, wherein a true identity of said computer system is represented by utilizing said real UUID as said computer system's UUID.

8.   A system for substituting an anonymous Universal Unique Identifier (UUID) for a computer system's real UUID in order to disguise an identity of said computer system to an application requesting a UUID for said client computer system, said computer system including a CPU, comprising:

a storage device in said computer system including a primary location, wherein a UUID stored in said primary location is used as a UUID for said computer system;

9   said system for generating said anonymous UUID, wherein
10 said anonymous UUID does not identify any particular
11 computer system;

12 said anonymous UUID being stored in said primary
13 location within said storage device; and

14 said system for providing said anonymous UUID in
15 response to a request for said computer system's UUID.

9.   The system according to claim 8, further comprising:

said storage device for including a secondary location
for saving said real UUID while said anonymous UUID is being
utilized as said computer system's UUID; and

in response to said storage of said anonymous UUID in
said primary location, said system for moving said real UUID
from said primary location to said secondary location,
wherein said real UUID is not located in said primary
location after said move.

1   10. The system according to claim 8, further comprising:

2   a cloak bit for specifying whether to disguise said
3   computer system's identity;

4   said computer system for starting execution of said
5   boot process;

6   means for determining whether said cloak bit is set

7   during said execution of said boot process; and

8   in response to a determination that said cloak bit is

9   set, said system for moving said real UUID stored in said

10   primary location to a secondary location in said storage

11   device and storing said anonymous UUID in said primary

12   location, wherein said identity of said computer system is

13   disguised by utilizing said anonymous UUID as said client

14   computer system's UUID.

11. The system according to claim 10, further comprising in
response to a determination that said cloak bit is cleared,
said system for moving said real UUID from said storage
location to said primary location, wherein a true identity
of said computer system is represented by utilizing said
real UUID as said computer system's UUID.

12. The system according to claim 8, further comprising:

an application program for requesting said computer
system's UUID; and

4   said computer system for providing a UUID stored in

5   said primary location to said application program in

6   response to said request.

1   13. The system according to claim 12, further comprising:

2   a cloak bit for specifying whether to disguise said

3   computer system's identity;

4   said computer system for providing said real UUID which

5   is stored in said primary location to said application

6   program in response to said request when said cloak bit is

7   cleared; and

           said computer system for providing said anonymous UUID

       which is stored in said primary location to said application

       program in response to said request when said cloak bit is

       set.

       14. The system according to claim 13, further comprising:

           means for determining whether said cloak bit is set or

       cleared;

           in response to a determination that said cloak bit is

       set, said system for moving said real UUID from said primary

6   location to a secondary location and moving said anonymous

7   UUID from said secondary location to said primary location,

8   wherein a true identity of said computer system is disguised

9   by utilizing said anonymous UUID as said computer system's

10   UUID; and

11   in response to a determination that said cloak bit is

12   cleared, said system for moving said real UUID from said

13 secondary location to said primary location and moving said

14 anonymous UUID from said primary location to said secondary

15 location, wherein a true identity of said computer system is

16 represented by utilizing said real UUID as said computer

17 system's UUID.